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To: Tarr, Jeremy M [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98859532088e4437968231eb6fef6b70-jmtarr1]
Subject: [External] Atlantic Coast Pipeline Public Comment

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Dear Energy and Environment Policy Advisor to Governor Cooper:

I am expressing my great concern about the pressure that is being thrust upon Governor Cooper's office to approve the water quality permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Knowing what Duke Energy and its partners have been capable of in the past (such as the entire coal ash pond mess that continues to this day with costs being passed onto Duke Energy customers if the corporation has its way), I urge you to do whatever you can to make sure that more public hearings are called in at least three sites along the proposed pipeline's corridor to assess the environmental impact on our public resources.

As you are well aware, this very large fracked-gas pipeline would run 186 miles through Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Cumberland and Robeson Counties. Hundreds of landowners and residents would be displaced or impacted and be vulnerable to increased risks that such a massive project will pose. Some of the most vulnerable residents of eastern NC will face most of the adverse impacts, with little or no chance of getting even temporary jobs, much less the long term economic development that the project backers claim.

I am also deeply concerned about the hundreds of vulnerable streams, wetlands and rivers that will be degraded for a project that is not even needed, as energy demand has been flat in the southeast for years and is expected to remain so. Any additional energy demand can be more than met by safer, more cost-effective, more job-creating renewable energy and energy efficiency installations.

Duke Energy has a history of reaping profits without thinking about the harm to local communities and the environment. Just considering how it wants to handle the coal ash debacle for which it was entirely responsible, it is my opinion that the permit should be denied altogether but at the very least, public input should be sought and seriously weighed before any decision on this permit is to be made.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Regards,
Gloria Shen
Asheville, NC